

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended)

An access panel assembly for providing access to a duct through an opening in the outer surface of the duct, said access panel assembly comprising:

a sealing member adapted to fit around the opening in the duct;

a cover member adapted to fit over said sealing member and cover the opening in the duct;

a plurality of fasteners for coupling said cover member to the duct;

said cover member being formed to the shape of the outer surface of the duct;

said fasteners comprising a spring clip and a threaded stud member, said spring clips being affixed around the edge of the opening in the duct and including a threaded portion for engaging said threaded stud members, and said cover member including mounting openings for inserting said threaded stud members to engage said spring clips, and said sealing member including mounting openings in communication with the mounting openings in said cover member.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented)

The access panel assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said cover member comprises a fire resistant panel and said sealing member comprises a gasket formed from a high temperature resistant material, so that in a closed

position said cover member and said sealing member provide a fire tight seal over the opening in the duct.

Claim 3. (Cancelled)

Claim 4. (Currently Amended)

The access panel assembly as claimed in claim 1 or 2 3 wherein said threaded stud members include a tool-less head for screwing and unscrewing said threaded stud member.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended)

The access panel assembly as claimed in claim 3 4, wherein said threaded stud member comprises a wing head threaded stud.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended)

The access panel assembly as claimed in claim 1 3, wherein the opening in the duct has an irregular shape, and said cover member has a shape to conform with the irregular shape of the opening in the duct.

Claim 7. (Cancelled).

Claim 8. (Currently Amended)

The access panel assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the outer surface of the duct comprises [has] a plurality of side-walls which define a cross-sectional shape for the duct, and said cover member is formed to span more than one side-wall of the duct.

Claim 9. (Currently amended)

The access panel assembly as claimed in claim 6 8, wherein the cross-sectional shape of the duct includes any one of a rectangle ~~rectangular shape~~, a circle ~~circular shape~~, a square, and an oval ~~shape~~.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended)

A frameless access panel for providing access to a duct through an opening in the outer surface of the duct, said access panel comprising:

a sealing member adapted to fit around the opening in the duct;

a cover panel adapted to fit over said sealing member and cover the opening in the duct;

a plurality of fasteners for coupling said cover member to the duct;

said cover panel being formed to the shape of the outer surface of the duct;

said fasteners comprising a spring clip and a threaded stud member, said spring clips being affixed around the edge of the opening in the duct and including a threaded portion for engaging said threaded stud members, and said cover

member including mounting openings for inserting said threaded stud members to engage said spring clips, and said sealing member including mounting openings in communication with the mounting openings in said cover member.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended)

The access panel assembly as claimed in claim 8 ~~10~~, wherein the opening in the duct has an irregular shape, and said cover member has a shape to conform with the irregular shape of the opening in the duct.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended)

The access panel assembly as claimed in claim 9 ~~11~~, wherein the outer surface of the duct has a plurality of side-walls which define a cross-sectional shape for the duct, and said cover member is formed to span more than one side-wall of the duct.

Claim 13. (Cancelled)

Claim 14. (Currently Amended)

The access panel assembly as claimed in claim 10 ~~13~~, wherein said spring clips comprise a low profile shape, so that said spring clips do not substantially protrude into the interior of the duct.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended)

A field modifiable access panel assembly for providing access to a duct through an opening in the duct, said access panel assembly comprising:

a sealing member adapted to fit around the opening in the duct;

a cover member adapted to fit over said sealing member and cover the opening in the duct;

a plurality of fasteners for coupling said cover member to the duct;

said cover member comprising a material modifiable in the field to conform to the cross-sectional shape of the duct;

said fasteners comprising a spring clip and a threaded stud member, said spring clips being affixed around the edge of the opening in the duct and including a threaded portion for engaging said threaded stud members, and said cover member including mounting openings for inserting said threaded stud members to engage said spring clips, and said sealing member including mounting openings in communication with the mounting openings in said cover member.

Claim 16. (Original)

The field modifiable access panel assembly as claimed in claim 15, wherein said cover member comprises a metal sheet.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended)

The field modifiable access panel assembly as claimed in claim 12 ~~16~~, wherein said cover member comprises a fire resistant panel and said sealing member comprises a gasket formed from a high temperature resistant material, so that in a closed position said cover member and said sealing member provide a fire tight seal over the opening in the duct.

Claim 18. (Cancelled).